

Van Bibber House
303 S. Main Street
Bel Air
Private

The oldest building in Town on its original site, the Van Bibber House was started in 1789 with the construction of the northern, three bay flemish bond brick section. This portion had a side hall and one room up and down. By 1800 the southern two bay clapboard section was in place giving the house a center hall. The third, stone, section, a south ell was probably built sometime before the mid-19th century as a one and a half story kitchen section. The ell has been raised to two full stories. Notable interior details include the mantels, the paneling around the fireplace in the second story northwest chamber, and the oak graining on the door to that room.

The building housed Miss Davenport's Seminary in 1858; after the Civil War it became the Presbyterian Manse. From 1883 to 1907 it was the home of the Finney family. The Reverend Ebenezer D. Finney, the Presbyterian minister, bought it from the church. In 1907 Dr. Armfield F. Van Bibber bought it and it remained in the Van Bibber family until the death in 1979 of George Van Bibber. It is being turned into offices.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Van Bibber House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

303 S. Main Street

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

___ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER: undecided

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Roger Rice

Telephone #: 838-8600

STREET & NUMBER

Rice Insurance Agency 309 S. Main

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 1035

Folio #: 124

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

NA-224

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story gable roofed house is at 303 South Main Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is the oldest house in Town still on its original site and is an excellent example of how the vernacular house expanded to meet changing family -- or social -- needs in the 19th century. It is composed of three different two story sections tied into an harmonious L-shaped whole. The earliest section is the north two bay flemish bond brick section (1789). The front (west) elevation of this portion is painted a warm yellow, although the paint is dirty and flaking now. The gable end (north elevation) and the back (east) elevation are plastered and painted yellow. On the gable end, the plain chimney projects 8½ inches from the wall plane. Other elements are the water table and square louver shuttered windows flanking the chimney in the gable. This portion contains one room up and down and the hall.

The next portion to be built is the clapboard front section to the south. It was built around 1800 and also contains two bays, giving the front block of the house a balanced center hall plan. The weather boarding on most of this section is beaded. It is also painted yellow and is flaking worse than the brick section. The gable end of this section (south elevation) shows two bays (except on the porch). The chimney in this gable is inside the wall surface. In the attic 2 four pane casement windows flank this chimney. A single gable roofed dormer breaks through the slated roof above the center of the frame portion to the east and to the west. A broken pediment is formed by the molding and partial return in the gable. The sides are shingle and the window is 6/6.

A two story stone rubble section forms an ell to the frame section. It may have been in place by 1814. An examination of the masonry in the gable end (east elevation) of the ell shows its first form to have been one and a half stories with a steeply sloping gable roof. Sometime in the 19th century the roof of the ell was raised, giving it two full stories with a very shallow pitch on the gable. This ell contains most of the dining room, all of the kitchen, a back staircase between, and bedrooms and bath on the second floor.

The fenestration of the structure is varied. All the front windows are 2/2 double-hung sash, as are those in the first (west) bay of the south elevation; the more elegant and "modern" Victorian windows thus light the front and side of the public rooms and the front bedrooms. The other windows are the more mundane small panes. The back (east elevation) of the brick section has 6/6 in the second story and 6/9 in the first story. The stone ell has 6/6 in the first story and 9/6 in the second. The 9/6 in the ell are thought by James Wollon, Havre de Grace preservation architect, to be the original front windows and if that is true it links the front modernization with the "raising of the roof" on the ell. The date is debatable (see #8). The south elevation has two long glass doors

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

NA-224

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1789 - 1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Van Bibber House is a late 18th century house slightly atypical since the first (north) 26' x 18' section was built of brick making it a house of more pretension than the frame Hays House which was built across the street the previous year by the same builder. These two houses are the only two left in Bel Air recorded in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment. The Van Bibber House is still on its original site; the Hays House was moved in 1960 to make way for a supermarket.

The Town of Bel Air was laid out in 1780 on Scott's Old Fields, the property of Acquilla Scott. In 1789 John Bull, of Baltimore, purchased lot #37 on the Town plat from Acquilla Scott (H/373). The brick portion of the house was built that year. On January 1, 1790, he mortgaged the house and lot to James Bond of Joshua for L137 current money (K/119). Three years later (1793) Thomas Taylor of John purchased the mortgage from Bull and the fee from Bond (M/93). He sold it in 1800 to Jacob Norris for L300. The increase in the price suggests that the frame section, at least, had been added to the brick. Jacob Norris sold the property to Clerk of Court Henry Dorsey in 1804 for the same price (R/458). It was to remain in Dorsey's family for nearly fifty years. The 1814 Federal tax list shows that the lot was occupied by "one dwelling house of brick and wood 42' x 18', a stone kitchen and back building 36' x 18', a wooden smokehouse 10' x 8', and a cornhouse of wood 12' x 9'. A frame house and stable in poor condition may have been on this lot or possibly on the other lot Dorsey owned in Town, possibly #38 next door. The dimensions of the house suggest that if the stone portion was attached to the main block as an ell, the house had reached its present configuration. The two lots and their improvements were taxed at \$2000. Dorsey owned other land and slaves. The total valuation was \$9382 which made Dorsey the wealthiest property owner in Bel Air. Second was Thomas Hays whose property was valued at \$8380.

The property remained in the Dorsey family until 1852 when Henry D. Farnandis, Dorsey's grandson and trustee, Walter Farnandis, and his wife, Mary, who was Dorsey's daughter, sold it for \$1800 to Mary S. Robinson and her husband James (2/42). The Robinsons lived there for five years and then sold it to Mrs. Sophia McHenry for \$3500. It is possible that some major improvement was made during these years to account for the almost doubling of the price. If the "stone kitchen and back building" mentioned in the 1814 tax assessment was not

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Tax Assessments for 1798 and 1814
The Southern Aegis and Harford Democrat
 Harford County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #1378 in the Town of Bel Air,
 100' x 110.29'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

2 April 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

in the first story which once gave access to the side porch. One is to the east of the chimney and provides access to the parlor. The other is still farther east and leads to the dining room. All but the least important windows are framed in louvered wooden shutters.

There are five entrances to the house besides the doors on the south porch. The front (west) entry is from the front porch. It is in the brick section. The wide door appears to be a 19th century one. It has a single large panel topped by three vertical glass panes. The simple molding of the door surround also surrounds a six pane horizontal transom. On the north elevation there is a six panel door in the frame section (which is clearly seen to be deeper than the brick section). This is shaded by a wood shingled shed hood with chamfered brackets. The door leads to the center hall just east of the cellar door under the front staircase. The ell has three doors. A glass one in the north elevation of the side porch leads to a glassed in portion of the porch which gives onto the dining room. East of this door and on the same side is the kitchen door in the stone wall (obscured in the pictures by the lattice of the back portion of the side porch). The final door is also a kitchen door, this time in the south elevation of the ell just east of center. It has a panel down and four panes up and is also shaded by a wood shingled shed on chamfered brackets.

Three porches shade various portions of the first story. The ones on the front (west) and south side are hip-roofed carried on chamfered posts on small blocks. The side porch has delicate carved brackets and remains on the front porch suggest that it did, too. The shed roofed porch on the north side of the ell is divided into three portions. The westerly portion is now enclosed with clapboard below and 6/6 windows above. It is four bays wide - two windows, a door and a window (west to east). The middle portion of the porch is enclosed entirely with a window. This room seems to have served as a butler's pantry or some such. The easterly third of the porch is open and latticed.

The interior of the house is as complex as the exterior. The first story chamber in the brick section (the north chamber) has a pair of bookcases set into the north wall on either side of the chimney breast. They have Chippendale draw pulls and suggest the late 19th century. A fixed basin backed by tongue and groove paneling is in the southeast corner of this room. This was probably Dr. Armfield Van Bibber's office and the basin arrangement (the basin is modern) and the bookcases may date to his tenancy (1907). The simple mantel and shelf are replacements and probably date to the 1850's. The panelled door, the molded door and window surrounds and the aprons under the windows are quite simple and probably original. Next south is the center hall which runs through the main block. A dog-leg staircase rises against the north wall. It is open string with carved brackets and has turned balusters and the turned newel post one sees all over Town. It probably dates from the Finney occupancy (1883 et seq.).

The next south room is the parlor; it is wholly in the frame section. The door and window surrounds are plain molded and in a slightly different pattern than those of the north chamber. The original mantel has colonettes supporting the shelf. A

raised block is centered in the frieze. Delicate gauge work decorates the frieze and the colonettes above and below the center block. This room has a chair rail and built in book shelves in the northeast corner. A pair of French windows to the east of the fireplace lead to the side porch.

Behind this room, to the east, is the dining room. Almost six feet of this room is in the frame section. The rest is in the stone ell. This room is wainscotted in tongue and groove topped by a simple chair rail. The door and window surrounds here are again plain molded, except for the door from the hall in the northwest end of the north wall. It has the Greek Revival dog-ear surround. Other doors include a pair of French windows leading to the south side porch, a door to the north side porch and two six panelled doors flanking the chimney in the east wall which lead to the kitchen. This room may have been the kitchen at one time. The mantel is the crudest of all the woodwork in the house. The opening has been altered. The simple shelf is supported by thick brackets. Equally clumsy gauge work and applied decoration adorn the frieze.

Behind the dining room (from north to south) are a "butler's pantry" (part of the north porch) a hall and the back staircase which is a tight dog-leg and opens to a hall to the south. Behind these arrangements (to the east) in the present kitchen with built-in cupboards in the west wall and a hole for a cook-stove-pipe in the east wall. Two doors lead outside, one in the north wall and one in the south.

The main block in the second story contains three bedrooms, a bath, and a T-shaped hall. The north chamber (in the brick portion) has oakgraining painted in the panels of door, a chair rail, and a complex cupboard over and around the fireplace. The fireplace itself has a simple molded surround and a gothic revival grate. Over the mantel is a panel above which are three built-in shelves. Down the east side of this and reaching down to about $\frac{2}{3}$ the height of the fireplace surround is a four panel door behind which are shelves. Beneath the door is a recess which may have held logs for the fire. In the south east portion of the south wall is a small built-in closet which has a trap-door access to the attic. It is unlikely that the closet is original, but the trap-door may be. On the attic side it has hand wrought H-L hinges. Since the main staircase is clearly late Victorian, there is no way of knowing about the original access to the attic.

The southwest portion of the brick structure contains a large bathroom with a chair rail and an old bathtub on a pedestal. East of that is the hall which forms a T along the staircase (with its crossbar to the west).

The south front chamber is in the frame section. It has a chair rail and a handsome mantle. The fireplace opening has an architrave surround supporting end blocks and a plain frieze. The tops of the end blocks and the cornice are decorated with gauge work and a line of bead and reel. Behind this room (to the east) is a small bedroom and a bit of hall and one step down into the next bedroom (this one in the stone ell). In the west wall of this little hall is the door to the attic staircase.

The west bedroom in the stone ell has entirely plain woodwork and four panel doors. Behind it to the east is a hall which leads to a bathroom. The tub in this bathroom has claw and ball feet. Leading off the back hall (to the north) is another bit of hall which has the back staircase to the west and another tiny bedroom to the east.

The attic story is divided into two portions: that over the brick section of the main block is floored but clearly meant for storage, since it is lighted only by the louvered shuttered windows in the north gable. It is into this attic that the trap-door from the closet in the north chamber on the second floor leads. To the east is the attic over the frame section. Lighted by two dormers and the two small windows in the south gable, this room is plastered and can be used as a bedroom.

As can be readily seen from the above, the floor plan is complex. It "just grew" over time.

attached to the main block, it is possible that the stone ell was added during these years. The east end of the stone ell shows it to have originally been one and a half stories tall with a fairly steep pitched gable roof. The roof was raised to two full stories sometime later, and the pitch of the present roof suggests mid-century or later. Certain interior changes were made, too. The dining room fireplace is not original; neither is the woodwork in that room. The fireplace in the north ground floor chamber is also not original. The front (west) windows are the Victorian 2/2 and the posts and trim of the side porch could date from this period, as could the two sets of double long doors to the side porch. The front porch posts show signs of having had trim similar to that on the side porch. The windows in the second story of the stone ell (6/6) are, in the opinion of James Wollen, preservation architect and president of the Harford County Historical Society, the original front windows. Any or all of these changes could date from this period.

The 1858 Map of Bel Air shows that the house was being used as "Miss Davenport's Seminary". An ad in The Southern Aegis for June 12, 1858, identifies the school as Miss L. B. Davenport's Female Seminary. Bel Air during this period and for the rest of the century was somewhat of an education center with the Bel Air Academy for boys and several girls' schools. The lack of a public education system in the County accounts for these private schools. Scholars boarded around Town. The girls' schools probably boarded some of their scholars. If the stone ell was raised to two full stories at this time, there would be more room for boarding students.

After the Civil War, Mrs. McHenry sold the property to the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church for \$2000 (1867, 18/137). It served as the church parsonage until the trustees sold it to Rev. Ebenezer D. Finney in 1883 for \$2500 (48/105). Reverend Finney had preached the first sermon the the then newly organized First Presbyterian Church on July 4, 1852. In 1872 Reverend Finney returned to Bel Air to become pastor of the church. Some addition was made to the house in 1884 (possibly that stone ell) because some addition was announced in the Harford Democrat's list of Town improvements for that year.

This is another juncture at which the above mentioned improvements could have been made. The staircase is not original, and the newel post is the fat turned Victorian piece one sees all over Town. The year 1883 is a better date for it than 1852. Two tall bookcase cabinets flanking the fireplace in the north chamber with their Chinese Chippendale pulls fit better with 1883 also. Indeed, there is nothing to suggest that all the improvements were not made at the same time, but the fireplace in the dining room looks more like 1852 as does the rest of the woodwork in that room. The lack of cooking fireplace remnants in the house and a jog in the dining room's outside wall (the dining room is partly in the frame section but mostly in the stone ell) suggests the following configuration: the north chamber (the brick section) as a parlor, the south chamber (the frame section) the dining room with a narrow portion of the frame section in the back as a butler's pantry. The stone ell (1½ stories) would have been the kitchen and possibly servant's quarters. Some rearrangement

of the room use occurred to make the dining room shift east to the ell. Possibly it was the renovation of the building as a school. At any rate, the mantle in that room looks 1852. Then the kitchen shifted back to the present kitchen which has fittings for a cookstove. Perhaps the headmistress took the north chamber as her room; perhaps it was turned into a classroom. At some time that room acquired a fixed basin in the southeast corner. The basin is modern, the wainscotting behind it is not. It could be 1852. It could also be 1883. Or it could have been added if the room was used by Doctor Van Bibber as an office. The bookcases there could have held his medical library. They are not suitable for 1852.

In 1897 Finney deeded an undivided half interest in the property to his wife, Elizabeth McC. Finney (91/115). In 1907 Mrs. Finney and the Finney children sold the house and lot to Dr. Armfield F. Van Bibber and his wife, Rebecca. The property remained in the Van Bibber family until 1977 when George Van Bibber sold it to Roger Rice, retaining a life interest in it.

Mr. Van Bibber (1906-1979) was trained as an architect at the University of Virginia, where he graduated in 1929. During the depression he worked for the Historic American Building Survey, among other things, preparing measured drawings of the Rumsey Mansion in Joppa. From 1936 to 1960 he was employed at Edgewood Arsenal. He was a world traveller, a painter, and a columnist for local newspapers. His column Henry Harf Hath Heard appeared regularly in The Aegis. At one time he wrote a column Crazy Horse Has Spoken for the Havre de Grace Record. He was also a diligent diarist. When he died in March, 1979, the house passed to Roger Rice of Rice Insurance Agency, who maintains his office in the 19th century house next door. The Van Bibber House's future is uncertain.

TITLE: Van Bibber House

1035/124	25 July 1977 George L. Van Bibber to Roger R. Rice and Julia, wife subject to life estate without right to sell, rent, or convey lot #37 and part of #38
481/472	10 May 1957 Katharine Van Bibber to George Van Bibber her interest
487/189	8 August 1957 Edwin and Julia Van Bibber to George Van Bibber their share except see below
487/192	15 August 1957 George Van Bibber to Edwin and Julia Van Bibber east half of above lot 97.19' x 194.96'
450/320	3 September 1955 Ann Van Bibber Whitney and William T. Whitney, husband to George Van Bibber their share The Van Bibber siblings George, Katharine, Edwin, and Ann inherited the property from their parents Dr. Armfield F. Van Bibber and his wife Rebecca.
181/385	9 April 1923 J. Edmund Michael to Armfield F. Van Bibber and Rebecca, wife

181/384 9 April 1923
Armfield F. Van Bibber and Rebecca, wife
to
J. Edmund Michael

120/278 31 January 1907
Elizabeth McC. Finney, William P. Finney
and Kate, wife, John M. T. Finney and
Mary, wife
to
Armfield F. Van Bibber and Rebecca, wife

Elizabeth McC. Finney, widow of Ebenezer
D. Finney, held a $\frac{1}{2}$ interest; John and
Walter were their children and heirs of
Ebenezer.

120/279 9 February 1907
Confirmatory deed to Van Bibber by the
Trustees of the Presbyterian Church

91/115 13 May 1897
Ebenezer D. Finney
to
Elizabeth McC. Finney (his wife)
an undivided $\frac{1}{2}$ interest

48/105 9 June 1883
Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church
and the Fulton Building Association
to
Ebenezer D. Finney
\$2,500
the Fulton Building Assoc. held a mortgage
(1882, 46/64)

18/137 2 January 1867
Sophia Mc Henry
to
the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church
\$2,000

9/195 12 October 1857
James S. Robinson and Mary, wife
to
Mrs. Sophia Mc Henry
\$3,500
"lately occupied by Robinson as a residence"

2/42 21 July 1852
Henry D. Farnandis, Trustee of Henry Dorsey's
estate, Walter and Mary E. Farnandis
to
Mary S. Robinson, wife of James
\$1,800

R/458 28 August 1804
Jacob Norris
to
Henry Dorsey
L 300

P/91 12 April 1800
Thomas Taylor of John
to
Jacob Norris
#37 L 300

M/93 22 March 1793
James Bond of Joshua
to
Thomas Taylor
Taylor bought the mortgage from Bull and
now buys the fee

K/119 1 January 1790
John Bull of Baltimore
to
James Bond
Mortgage "house and lott in Belle Air"
L 137

H/373 1789
Acquila Scott of James
to
John Bull

N. R. FIELD
13022-42511

HA 224

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: <u>Van Bibber House</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>303 South Main Street</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Bel Air</u>			
STATE: <u>Maryland</u>	CODE:	COUNTY: <u>Harford</u>	CODE:
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Apartment - Commercial</u>
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: <u>George L. Van Bibber</u>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>303 S. Main Street</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Bel Air</u>	STATE: <u>MD</u>	CODE:	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. <u>CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT</u>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>40 S. MAIN ST.</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>BEL AIR</u>	STATE: <u>MARYLAND</u>	CODE:	
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>			Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
				Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		
				Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This old house is in three parts, two facing Main Street, the third a stone wing running behind the house. Brick and frame sections built along the same lines face west towards the street, the brick end, north, three bays beside the frame part, two bays. Running east along the south wall is a stone section, 3 bays by one. All the house is two stories high. Windows vary, 1 over 1 in the brick section, 2 over 2 in the frame, and 6 over 3 upstairs and 9 over 6 downstairs in the stone part of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

 Pre-Columbian ☐

 16th Century ☐

 18th Century ☐

 20th Century ☐

 15th Century ☐

 17th Century ☐

 19th Century ☒

Mixture, 3 ages

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

 Aboriginal ☐

 Education ☐

 Political ☐

 Urban Planning ☐

 Prehistoric ☐

 Engineering ☐

 Religion/Phi- ☐

 Other (Specify) ☐

 Historic ☐

 Industry ☐

 losophy ☐

 Agriculture ☐

 Invention ☐

 Science ☐

 Art ☐

 Landscape ☐

 Sculpture ☐

 Commerce ☐

 Architecture ☐

 Social/Human- ☐

 Communications ☐

 Literature ☐

 itarian ☒

 Conservation ☐

 Military ☐

 Theater ☐

 Music ☐

 Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This old residence has been rented
 without being made into carefully separated
 apartments for thirty years or so.
 Now the first floor will be offices
 for a sign-making company. Upkeep
 has been minimal but the house has
 considerable charm, due primarily
 to its basic proportions and planting.

Formerly ^{the} residence of Dr. Amiel Van Biber,
~~who died in 1911~~ the present owner is an
 architect.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, C. Milton. Our Harbor Heritage p 423

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		JEAN S. EWING	
ORGANIZATION	MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST	DATE	
STREET AND NUMBER:		50 STATE CIRCLE	
CITY OR TOWN:	ANNAPOLIS	STATE	MARYLAND
		CODE	

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-224

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

Van Bibber House

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:

Dorsey House

PRESENT USE: *undecided*

ORIGINAL USE: *private residence*

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:

Excellent ()

Good ()

Fair (X)

Poor ()

THEME: *architecture*

STYLE: *vernacular*

DATE BUILT:

brick portion 1789; frame 1800

COUNTY: *Harford*

TOWN: *Bel Air*

LOCATION: *303 S. Main St*

COMMON NAME:

Van Bibber House

FUNCTIONAL TYPE:

OWNER: *Roger Rice*

ADDRESS: *303 S. Main
Bel Air, Md.*

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:

Yes ()

No ()

Restricted (X)

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Local (X)

State ()

National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone (X) Brick () Concrete () Concrete Block ()

2. Wall Structure

A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon ()

B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick (X) Stone (X) Concrete () Concrete Block ()

C. Iron () D. Steel () E. Other:

3. Wall Covering: Clapboard (X) Board and Batten () Wood Shingle () Shiplap ()
Novelty () Stucco () Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle ()

Brick Veneer () Stone Veneer ()

Bonding Pattern: *filmed*

Other:

4. Roof Structure

A. Truss: Wood () Iron () Steel () Concrete ()

B. Other:

5. Roof Covering: Slate (X) Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal (X)
Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other: *(stone sl)*

6. Engineering Structure:

7. Other:

Appendages: Porches (X) Towers () Cupolas () Dormers (X) Chimneys (X) Sheds () Ells (X)
Wings () Other: *shed porches (2) water table*

Roof Style: Gable (X) Hip () Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()

Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet () With False Front ()

Other:

Number of Stories: *2 1/2*

Number of Bays: *5*

Approximate Dimensions: *40' x 60'*

Entrance Location: *Main St*

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:

No Threat () Zoning () Roads ()

Development (X) Deterioration ()

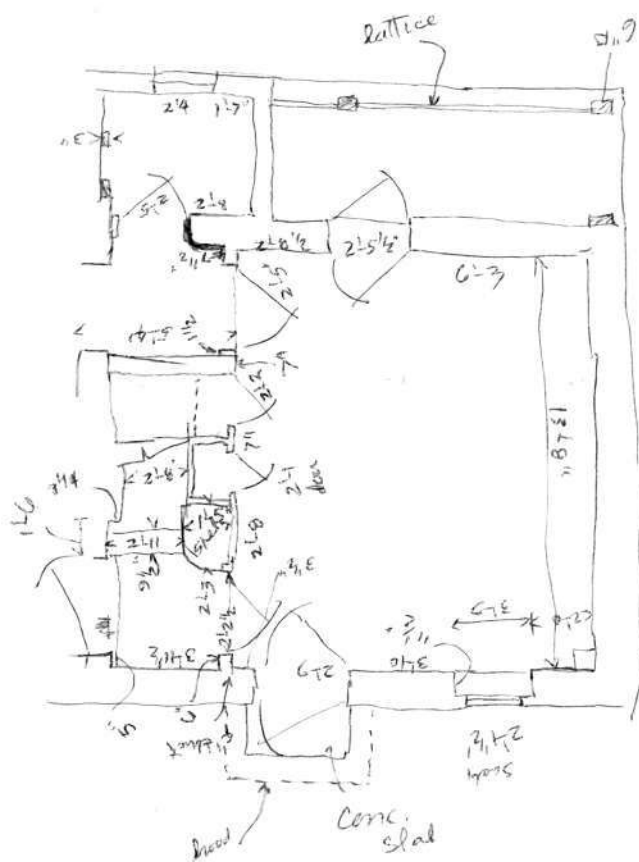
Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:

Positive (X) Negative ()

Mixed () Other:

HA-224



ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

brick plastered N + E windows, with section $\frac{6}{8}$ (2nd) $\frac{6}{8}$ (1st) in E windows. N also stone sill $\frac{6}{8}$ all front windows $\frac{2}{4}$ in moulded surrounds. 6 pane transom $\frac{6}{8}$ paneled door w 3 pane - sets different in brick + frame portions / frame portion has 2 long windows to porch. Note differences in end chimneys / shingles on sides of dormer / but turned newell turned balusters open string dog-leg, decorative brackets, moulded door surrounds, the one to d. n. B.K.R. door, iron mantle in N room 1850's replacement / front door pass. double / S room fireplace over dr / 2nd fl. N room graining on door, paneled in display, breast + Gothic revival coal grate. Stone portion raised from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 all changes consistent w 1883.

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

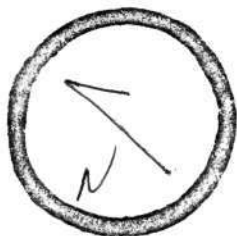
garage frame vertical boards

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Second oldest house in Bel Air + oldest on original site

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
 Moderately Built Up() Densely Built Up()
 Residential() Commercial(✓)
 Agricultural() Industrial()
 Roadside Strip Development()
 Other:

M. Larew

RECORDED BY:

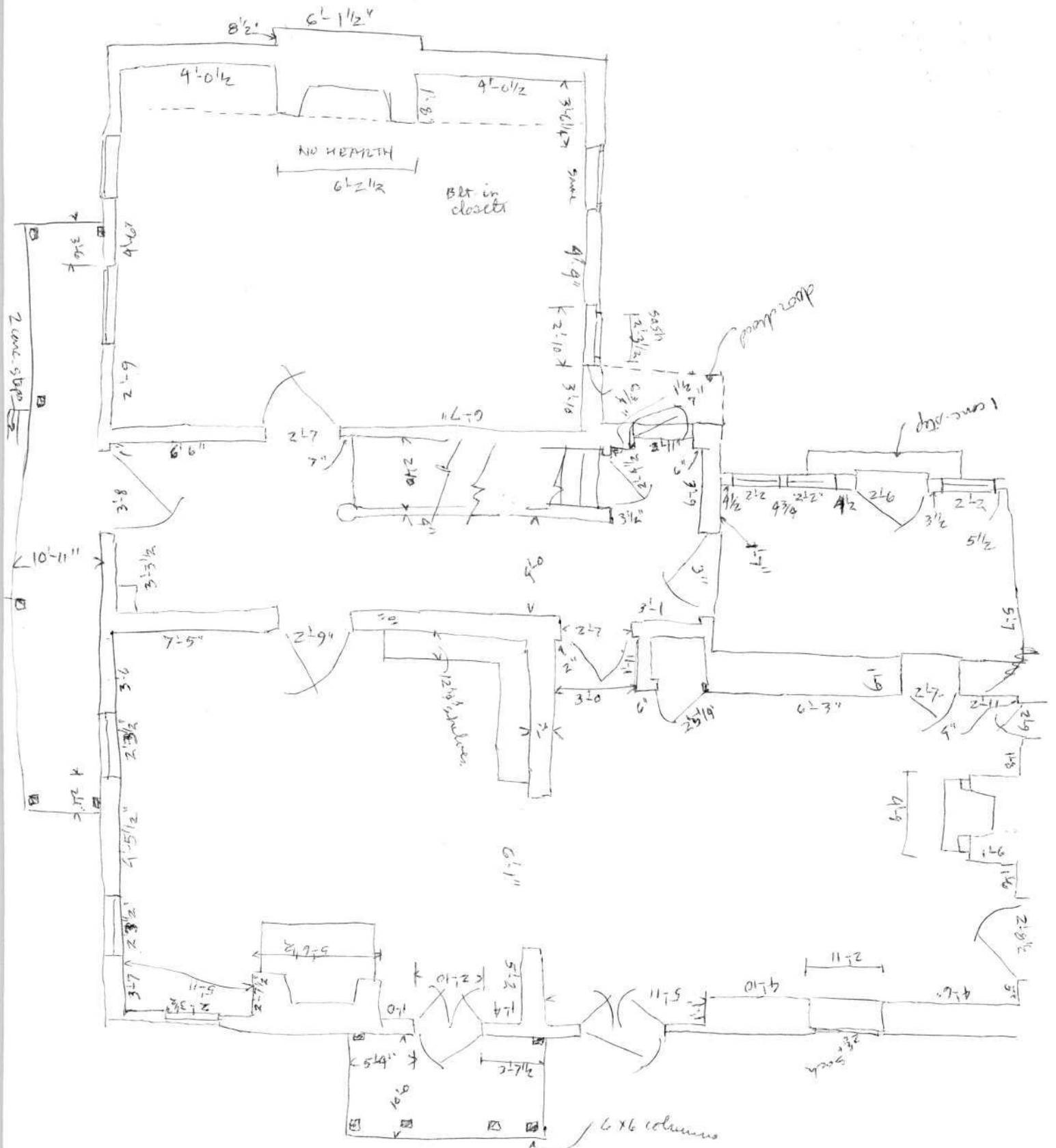
Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

DATE RECORDED:

use
1/8"

Page 20



Bel Air

Columnist, Architect, World Traveler George Van Bibber Is Dead At 73

*Was Regular
Contributor
To The Aegis*

George L. Van Bibber, a well-known native of Harford County and columnist for local weekly newspapers, died Monday at Fallston General Hospital after an illness of several weeks.

Mr. Van Bibber, 73, wrote a regular column, Henry Harf Hath Heard, for *The Aegis*.

He was the son of the late Dr. and Mrs. Armfield F. Van Bibber and the grandson of Harford County Circuit Court Judge George L. Van Bibber, Jr.

Mr. Van Bibber is survived by two sisters, Miss Katherine Van Bibber of Seattle, Wash., and Mrs. Anne Whitney of Randolph Center, Vt.

A familiar figure in *Bel Air*, the lifelong bachelor made his home in the house at Main street and Fulford avenue where his father once practiced medicine.

He earned an architectural degree from the University of Virginia in 1929, having worked during Summer vacations as a draftsman for a Baltimore architect.

During the depression, Mr. Van Bibber worked for the Historical American Building Survey. One of his projects was to prepare measured drawings of the Rumsey mansion in Joppa.

He was employed at Edgewood Arsenal from 1936 to 1960. His duties took him to many parts of the U.S. and its possessions including the Virgin Islands and the



GEORGE L. VAN BIBBER

Panama Canal Zone.

He traveled extensively throughout South America, Europe and Canada during his lifetime, completing a five-month round the world tour by ocean liner, trains, and plane in 1976.

Mr. Van Bibber has written for the three existing county weekly newspapers as well as for papers no longer published.

At one time he contributed a weekly column called *Crazy Horse Has Spoken* to the *Havre de Grace Record*.

Much of his material came from a voluminous diary begun in August, 1926, which earned him the unofficial title of the Samuel Pepys of *Bel Air*.

George Van Bibber also designed the seals for Harford County, the City of Havre de Grace, and the Towns of Aberdeen and *Bel Air*.

He was a member of the St. Andrew's Society, the Highland Society of Harford County, and the Sons of the American Revolution.

Mr. Van Bibber had requested that no formal funeral service be held and willed his body to medical research.

The Highland Society of Harford County held a memorial service for Mr. Van Bibber, Thursday.

Jul 25-77 A tt 25060 *** 200.00

Jul 25-77 A 25059 ****220.00

Jul 25-77 A 25058 *****9.00

THIS DEED, Made this 25th day of July 1977, by and between
 GEORGE L. VANBIBBER, of the first part, Grantor, and ROGER R. RICE and
 JOANNE M. RICE, his wife, of the second part, Grantees:

WITNESSETH, that in consideration of the sum of \$5.00, and other good and valuable considerations, the said Grantor does hereby grant, convey and assign, unto the said Grantees, as tenants by the entireties, their assigns, the survivor of them, his or her heirs and assigns, in fee simple, SUBJECT, however, to the hereinafter described life estate reserved to the within Grantor for and during the term of his natural life, all that property, situate and lying in Harford County, State of Maryland, and described as follows, that is to say:

BEGINNING for the same, all that certain lot or parcel of land situate in the town of Bel Air, Harford County aforesaid, fronting on the northeasterly side of Main Street and on the southeasterly side of a street or lane, being an extension of the Baltimore and Bel Air Turnpike, across said Main Street in a northeasterly direction, which said parcel of land is composed of Lot No. 37 and part of Lot No. 38, being two of the original lots of the Town of Bel Air, and the same and all the lands referred to and described in a Deed from Armfield F. VanBibber and Rebecca, his wife, to the said J. Edmund Michael, bearing date of April 9, 1923, and the same and all of the lands referred to and described in a Deed from Elizabeth McC. Finney to the said Armfield and wife, dated January 31, 1907, and also in a confirmatory Deed to them from the First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air and others, dated February 9, 1907, and recorded among the Land Records of Harford County in Liber WSF No. 120 at folios 278 and 279, respectively.

BEING the same and all that property conveyed by Deed dated May 10, 1957 and recorded among the Land Records of Harford County in Liber 481, folio 472 from Katherine VanBibber to George L. VanBibber; by Deed dated August 8, 1957 and recorded among the Land Records aforesaid in Liber 487, folio 189, from Edwin M. VanBibber et ux to George L. VanBibber; and by Deed dated September 3, 1955 and recorded among the Land Records aforesaid in Liber 450, folio 320 from Ann VanBibber Whitney and William T. Whitney to George L. VanBibber, in fee simple.

SAVING AND EXCEPTING THEREFROM that portion of the property which by Deed dated August 15, 1957 and recorded among the Land Records of Harford County in Liber 487, folio 192, was granted and conveyed by George L. VanBibber to Edwin M. VanBibber and Julia L. VanBibber, his wife, in fee simple.

TOGETHER with the buildings and improvements thereon; and the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances and advantages to the same belonging or in anywise appertaining.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said described property and premises unto and to the use of the said Grantees as tenants by the entireties, their assigns, the survivor of them, his or her heirs and assigns, in fee simple; SUBJECT however to a LIMITED LIFE ESTATE hereby reserved to the within Grantor for and during the term of his natural life without powers to sell, lease, rent, mortgage, encumber or in any manner dispose of or alienate the aforesaid property or any part thereof or interest therein.

AND THE SAID GRANTOR covenants to warrant specially the property hereby granted and conveyed, and to execute such further assurances of said land as may be requisite.

WHENEVER USED the singular number shall include the plural, the plural the singular, and the use of any gender shall be applicable to all genders.

WITNESS the hand and Seal of the said Grantor:

WITNESS:

Bowen P. Weisheit

George L. VanBibber (SEAL)

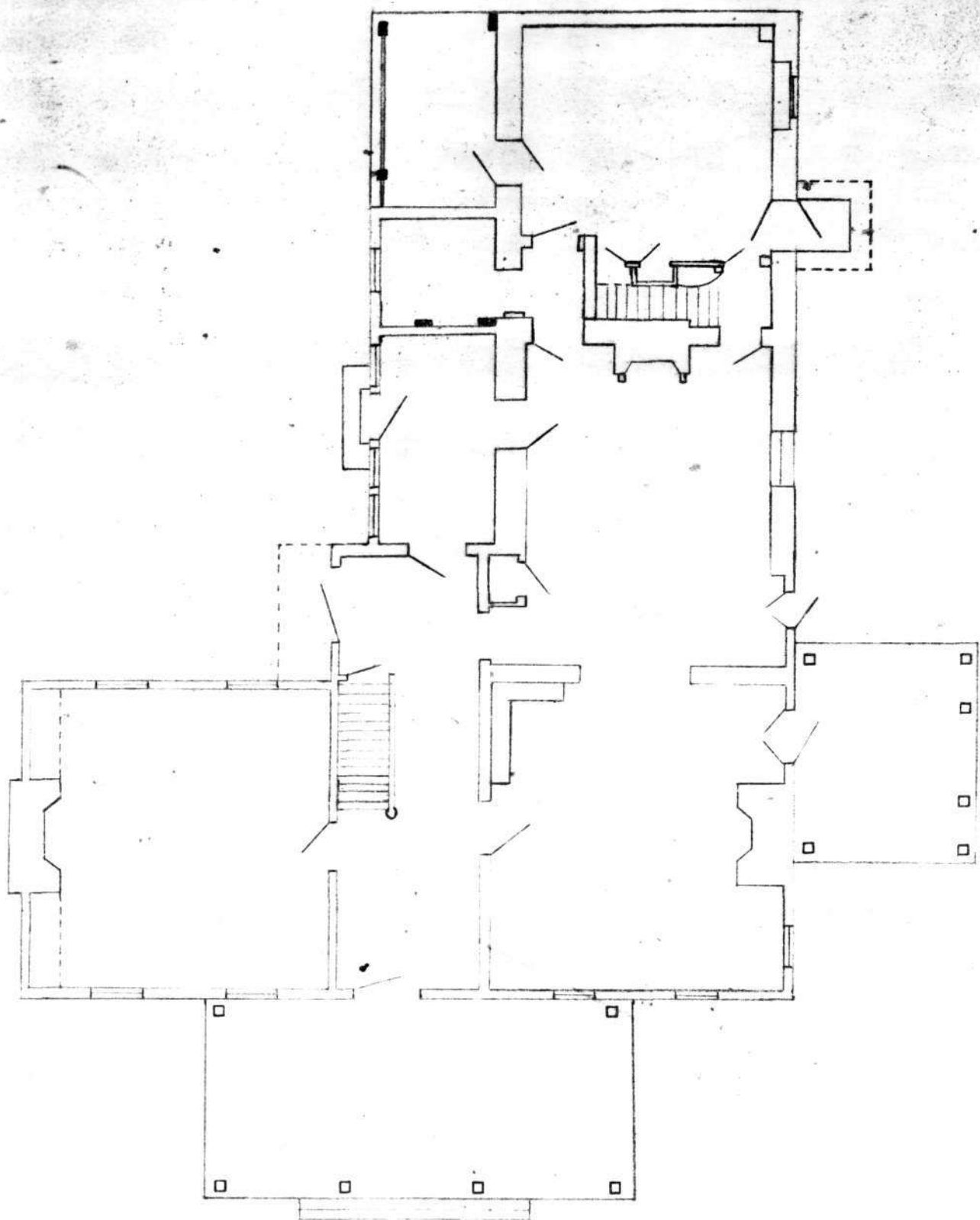
BOWEN P. WEISHEIT

GEORGE L. VANBIBBER

BW-254

LAW OFFICES
 BOWEN P. WEISHEIT

LIBER 1035 PAGE 124



SKETCHED: MARILYNN LAREW

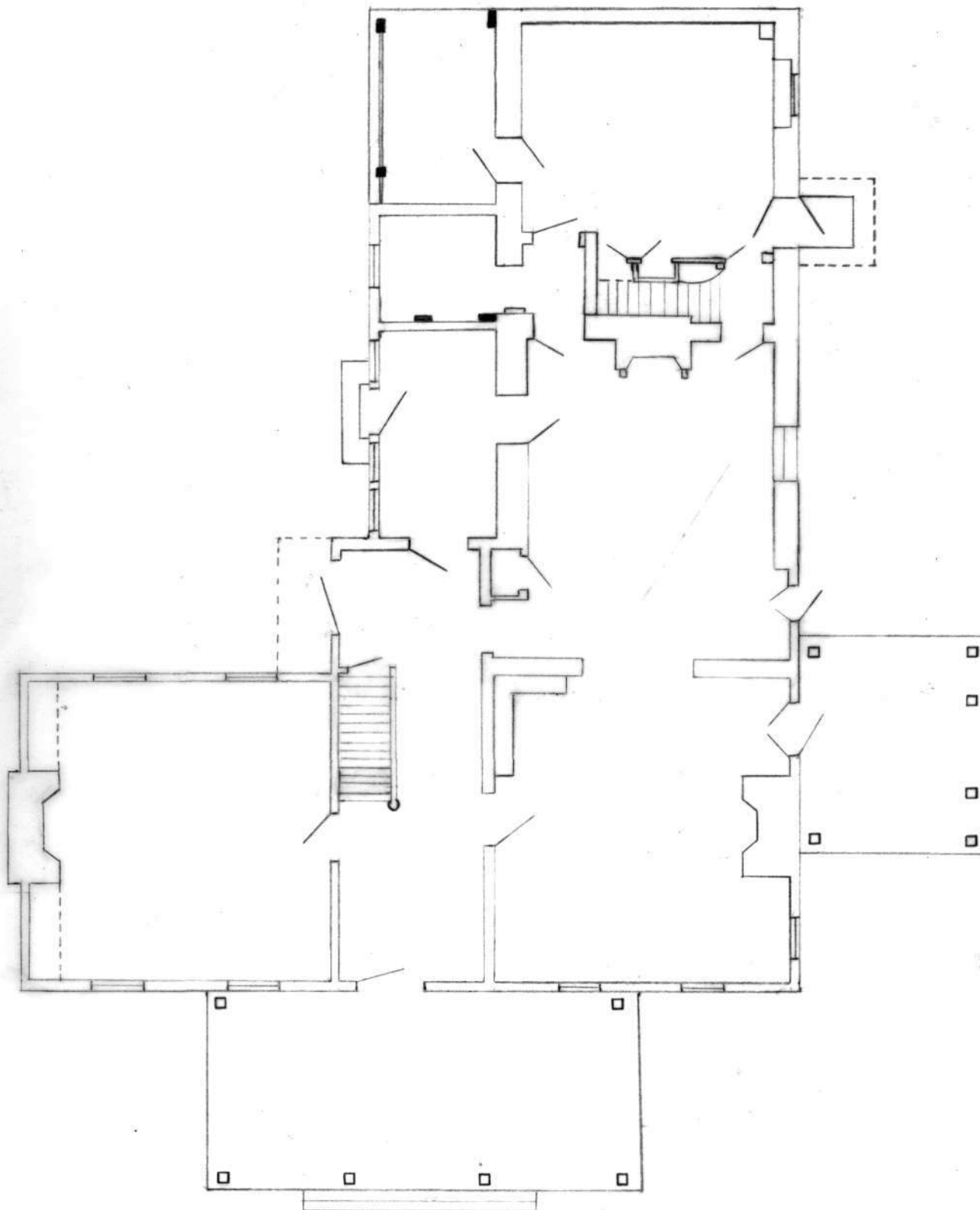
DRAWN: G. CUNO

VAN BIBBER HOUSE
303 S. MAIN STREET
BEL AIR, MARYLAND

HA-224



SCALE: 1/8 INCH = 1 FOOT



SKETCHED: MARILYNN LAREW

DRAWN: G. CUNO

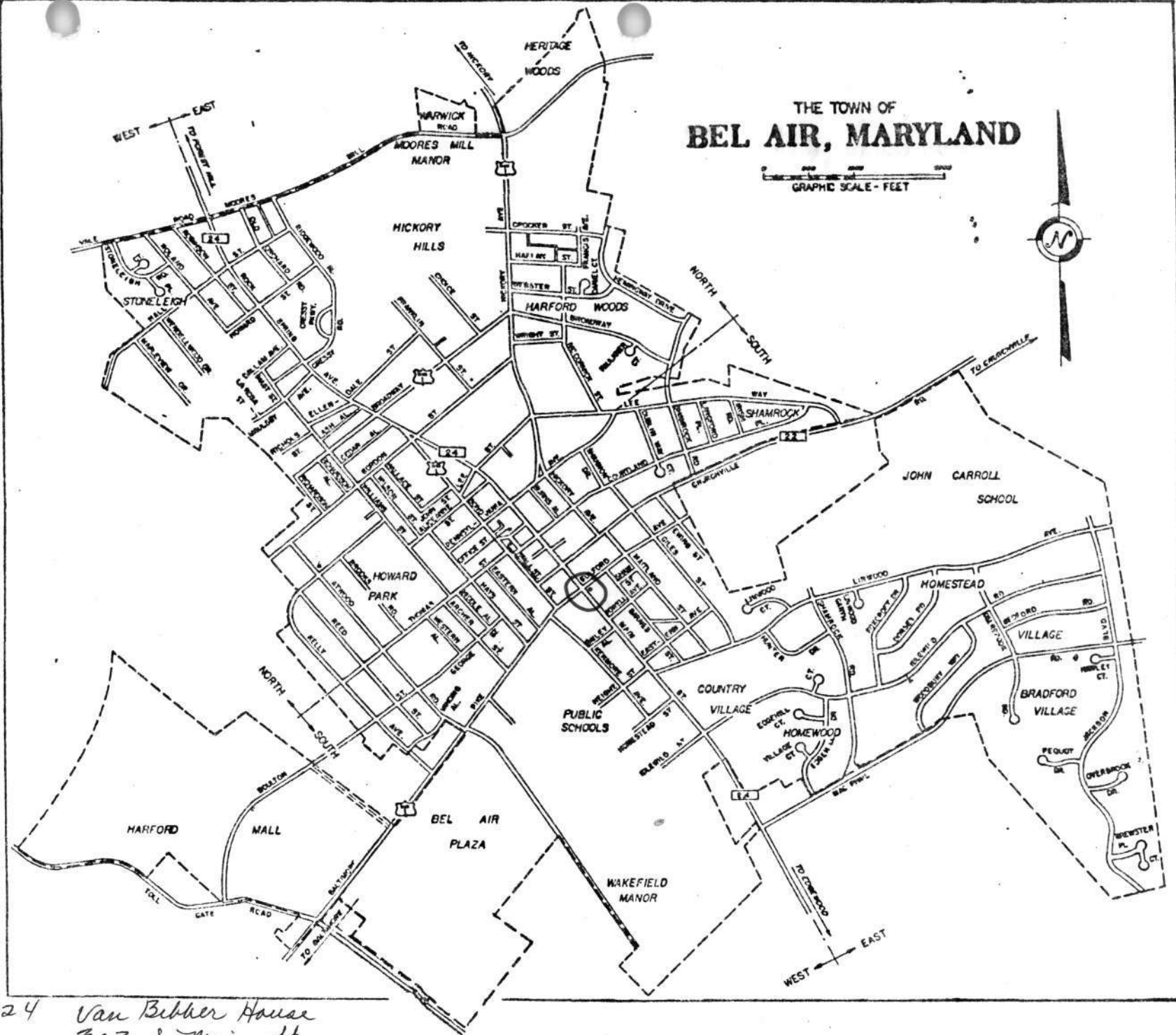
VAN BIBBER HOUSE
303 S. MAIN STREET
BEL AIR, MARYLAND
HA-224



SCALE: $\frac{1}{8}$ INCH = 1 FOOT

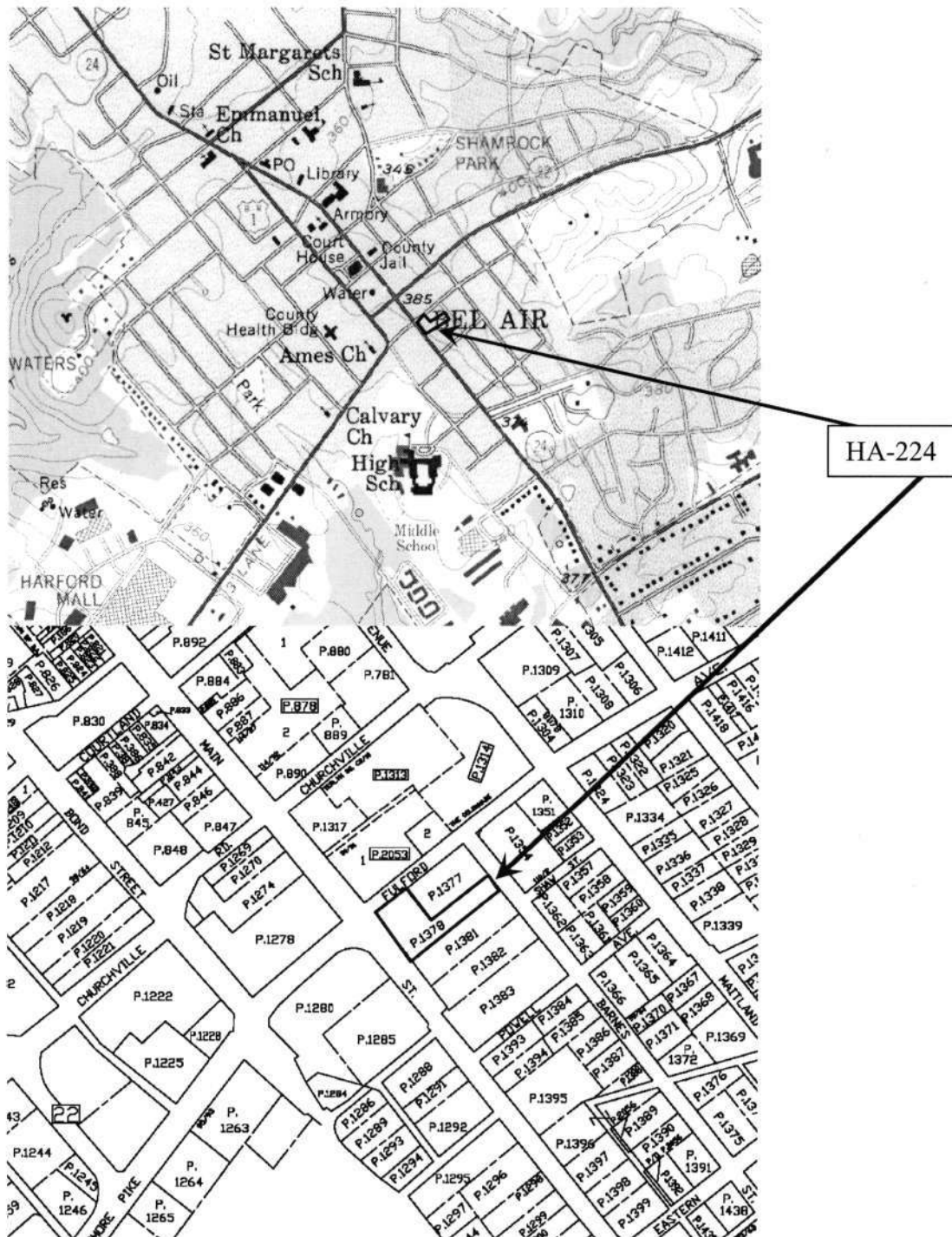
THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



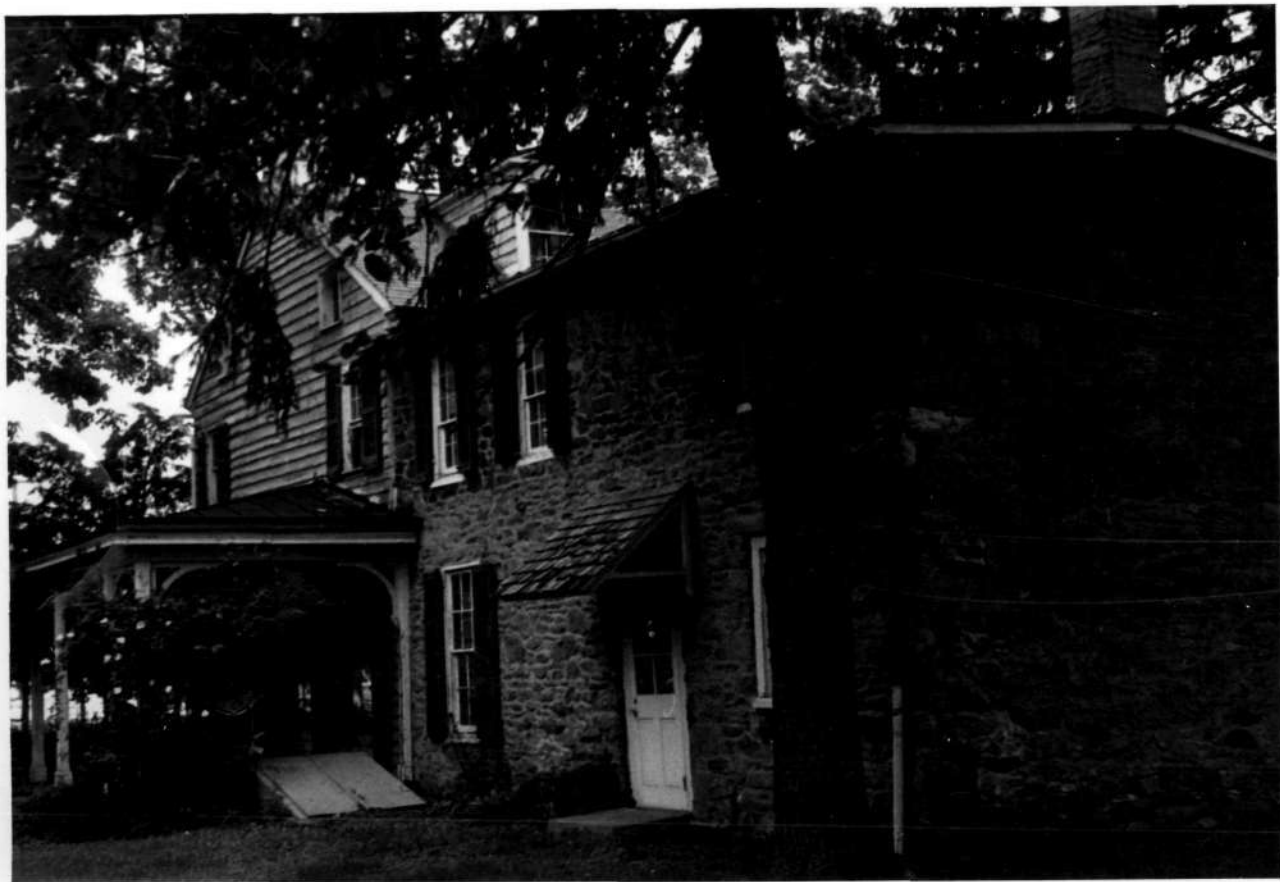
HA-224 Van Bibber House
303 S. Main St.
Bel Air, Md

HA-224
Van Bibber House
303 S. Main St.
Bel Air
Bel Air Quad.
Tax Map 301
Harford County





HA-224 Van Bibber House, 303 S. Main St, Bel Air
front (west) elev.
M. Larew, 1979



HA-224 Van Bepker House, 303 S. Main St., Belair
see also
M. Larew, 1979



HA-224

Van Bibber House, 303 S. Main St., Bel Air
e elev: stonework shows former roof
line

M. Larew, 1979



HA-224 - Van Bibber House, 303 S. Main St., Bel Air
w. elev.

M. Larew, 1979



HA-224

VAN BIBBER HOUSE, 303 S. MAIN, BEL AIR
ENTRANCE + PORCH W. ELEV.
TODD HOLDEN, 1979

PLEASE CREDIT
PHOTO
TODD HOLDEN
PHOTOGRAPHER:
BEL AIR. MD.



44-224

VAN BIBBER HOUSE, 303 S. MAIN, BEL AIR
S. ELEV.
TODD HOLDEN, 1979

PLEASE CREDIT
PHOTO
TODD HOLDEN
PHOTOGRAPHER
BEL AIR. MD.



HA-224 Van Bibber house, 303 S. Main, Bel Air
garage, s+e elevs.
M. Larew, 1979



4A-224 Van Bibber House, 3035.
Main St., Bel Air
Mantel + fireplace nw
Chamber, 2nd floor, looking
north
M. Larcus, 1979



HA-224

VAN BIBBER HOUSE, 303 S. MAIN, BEL AIR
FRONT HALL & STAIRCASE

LOOKING EAST

TODD HOLDEN 1979

PLEASE CREDIT
PHOTO
TODD HOLDEN
PHOTOGRAPHER
BEL AIR, MD.



HA- 224

VAN BIBBER HOUSE, 303 S. MAIN, BEL AIR
PARLOR, LOOKING SOUTH
TODD HOLDEN, 1979

PLEASE CREDIT
PHOTO
TODD HOLDEN
PHOTOGRAPHER
BEL AIR. MD.



HA-224 - Van Bibber House, 303 S. Main St, Bel Air
fireplace. sw chamber 1st floor, looking S.
M. Larew, 1979



HA-224 - Van Bibber House, 303 S. Main St, Bel Air
dining room fireplace, looking e.
M. Larew, 1979



HA-224 Van Bicker House, 303 S. Main St, Belair
fireplace NW chamber 1st floor, looking n.
M. Larew, 1979



HA-224 Van Bitter House, 303 S. Main, Bel Air
fireplace sw chamber 2nd floor, looking S.
M. Larew, 1979



HA-224



HA-224



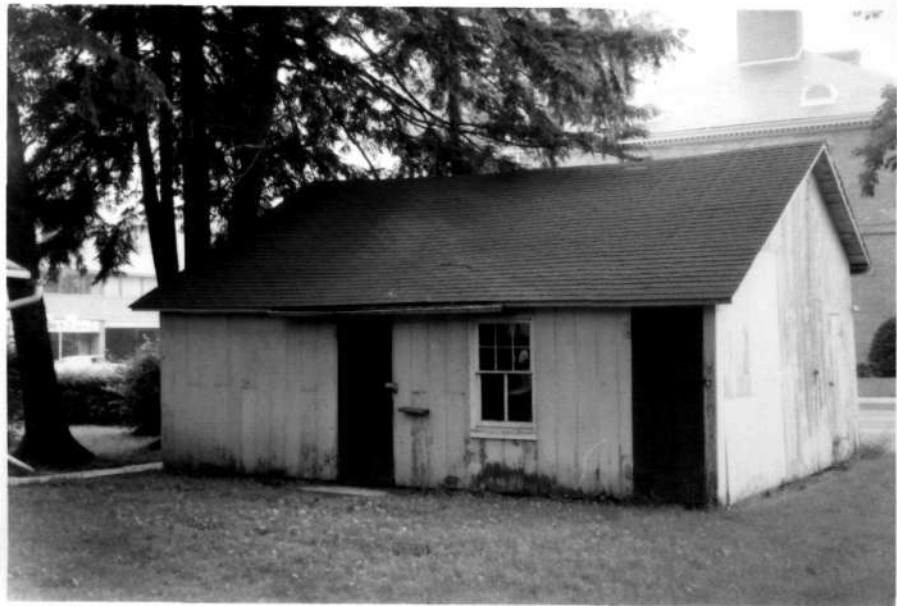
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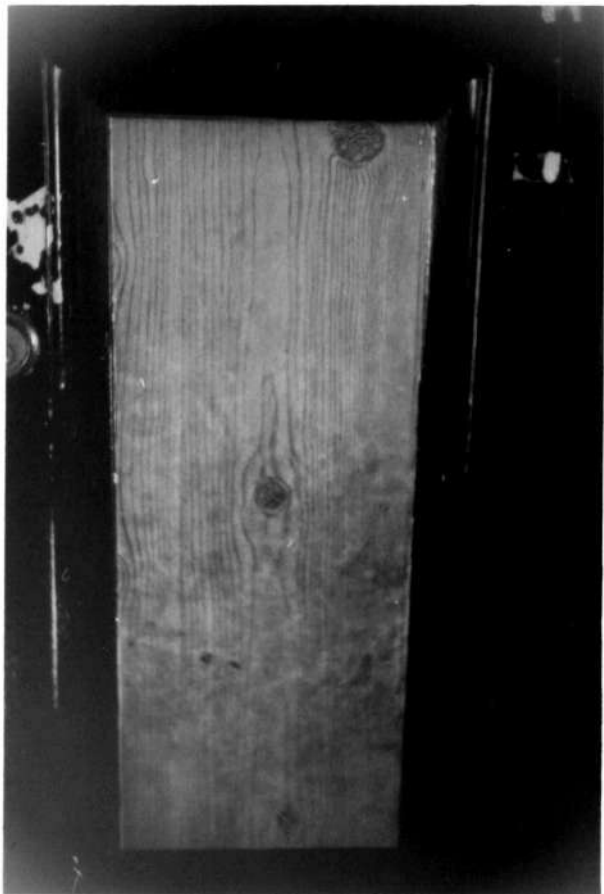
HA-224



HA-224



HA-224



HA-224



HA 224

Van Bibber House H& Mon '70